

INTIMATIONS.

TAILORING DEPARTMENT.

WE are now showing in the above Department, a large and varied Assortment of

HIGH CLASS MATERIALS

for

GENTLEMEN'S SUMMER WEAR,

comprising—

Fine Undyed ANGOLA TWEEDS,

Finest Striped Washing CASHMERE,

Striped & Check FLANNELS,

Twilled CASHMERE COATINGS (a specialty),

TENNIS FLANNELS, in all Colours,

White and Navy Blue SERGES and

CRICKETING FLANNELS.

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to the multiplication of telegraph and telephone wires as a probable source of danger in typhoons. The swishing about of these wires in their supports were blown away would undoubtedly be highly inconvenient, and might possibly cause damage to property and even personal injury and loss of life. The danger is of course many times greater when the wire is carrying a heavy current of electricity, as in the case of electric lighting wires. The danger is not supposition, but has been proved by numerous serious and fatal accidents, especially in New York, when wires have fallen, either in consequence of wind or from other causes. Even when the wires are placed in subways they are not free from danger; indeed, according to Mr. Emerson, wires so placed may be even more dangerous than aerial wires. The *Scientific American* a few months ago said:—

"The recent fires in Boston and Lynn, both traced more or less directly to electric light currents, raise a question which has grown more vital with time and the multiplying of wires, and is especially important now that we have entered upon an era of subway construction. It is a current of high potential, whether above or below the ground, a menace to property? We learned long since by practical experience that aerial mains were not to be trusted, because the falling or drooping of even a telegraph wire upon them would effect that cross-circuiting which has proved so disastrous; charges, say, an innocent gas-pipe with a 2,000 volt current, and, perhaps, make a water pipe carry fire as well as water. As to the buried wires, we have, it seems, still less to hope for. Mr. Emerson, in a recent interview, says of them:—'The placing of electric wires in subways, instead of lessening the dangers to life and property, will increase them. They are likely to be grounded through unobtainable breaks in insulation. This is followed by making, perhaps, a lamp-post dangerous to life, charging the iron frame of a store awning, a gas pipe, or a telephone wire. Thus, it would appear, there is not as yet any known mode of safely distributing high-tension currents in populous centres. Such evidently is the view taken by the authorities of Lynn, who, after an inquiry into the causes leading to the recent disastrous fire, prayed the Common Council to forbid the introduction of electric light-wires into the streets and buildings of that city's business centre.' It has now come to be recognised that when wires are laid underground separate subway or conduits must be constructed for them, separating them entirely from all possible contact with water or gas pipes. When this is done the dangers referred to by Mr. Emerson in the extract given above will be avoided."

For this Colony the underground system certainly seems the best. It is so long since we had a typhoon that we have come to think of the danger to be apprehended from those storms, and buildings are being run up constructed apparently with the idea that we are never to have another visitation of the kind. Even in only a moderate high-wind, however, overhead wires become a source of danger. But it is not only in the event of their being blown down that aerial wires carrying a strong current of electricity are dangerous. The telegraph informed us the other day of the case of a man being killed by accidentally coming in contact with a wire on the roof of a house. In Hongkong, where the roofs are so largely used for drying clothes and other household purposes, the risk of such accidents must be much larger than in an English town, and the natives have less intelligence to avoid them. The configuration of the town also, with the houses rising in tiers one above another, is calculated to bring the wires within closer reach at particular points than would be the case in a town built on a plain. The concession allowing the Company to carry their wires overhead, we believe, signed some months ago, and it will presumably be acted upon. It is unfortunate, however, that the question was not ventilated before the decision was arrived at, and an opportunity given for public discussion. Naturally the Company is its own interests will do its best to guard against accidents, for, as in the case recently reported from home, they would be liable to damages in case of any fatality being caused by their wires. But a very serious responsibility also rests on the Government to see that conditions of safety are duly observed, and for this purpose it is to be hoped they have made arrangements for obtaining thoroughly competent and independent advice on all technical points are likely to arise. Although it is to the interest of companies catering for the public to take precautions against accidents, the experience of railways has shown what fearful risks they are sometimes willing to incur and how necessary for the public safety it is that there should be strict supervision.

H.M.S. *Seymour* left yesterday afternoon for Japan.

The O. & C. steamer *Oceanic* will call at Kobe on her next trip.

The Portuguese gunboat *Rio Lima* went into dock yesterday at Kaitum.

Telegrams have been received at Shanghai announcing the opening of the tea market in Hankow.

We hear that the contract for the building of the Victoria College was \$38,000. The actual cost is something over \$29,000.

The *N. C. Daily News* learns that the Kinkiang market opened on the 6th inst. was a sale of 20,000 bags of rice, ranging from \$1.37 to 42¢ per picul. There was no news of rice from the market.

The *Chinese Times* of the 3rd inst. says the river at Tientsin is, if anything, lower. Grain guans, about 90 of which have arrived, cannot pass up. One or two have succeeded in getting to the Tientsin Reach, but have failed as yet to get further.

The Korean correspondent of the *Chinese Times* says there seems at this moment to be some slight doubt present as to whether, in the disorganised and critical condition of Korean affairs, Mr. General Lee Gwanse will be able to return and assume charge of the sailing ship of State and its incompetent crew.

The Board of Revenue are reported, says the *Chinese Times*, to have granted Chang Chih-ling, Viceroy of the Hu-chang, an appropriation of two million taels for the development of Iron Works in Hupei. This looks like business, and it ought to make the Chinese Government a more formidable foe to the powers of the West.

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The Superintendent informs us, that the P. & O. steamer *Thetis* left Singapore for this port at noon yesterday.

The Shanghai Land Investment Company are advertising the issue of Tls. 250,000 in part debentures.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) inform us that the O. & C. steamer *Oceanic* will call at Kobe on her next trip.

The proposed formation of a stock exchange has been abandoned for the present. Measures will probably be now taken by the Government for the licensing of brokers.

Messrs. Apear Brothers offered for sale by auction yesterday the two houses Nos. 23 and 25, Old Bailey Street, but as the reserve price was not reached the property was withdrawn.

Mr. F. A. Morgan, late Commissioner of Customs at Kanton, left by the P. & O. steamer *Thetis* for Shanghai on route to New Orleans, to which port he has been transferred.

According to the *N. C. Daily News* Mr. Drummond, of Shanghai, has been retained by Mr. Bell, in a pending case, connected with the *Belmont*, with the option of a full house.

The "Military Mummer" will give an entertainment on Saturday evening, at the Theatre Royal, in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund. The programme of the "Mummer" is coupled with the excellent object of the entertainment, ought to ensure a full house.

The Victory Chang Chih-ling has, we read in the *Mercury*, purchased 337 mow of land for his cotton mill in the Hupoh province. On this piece of ground there were 20 houses, 160 trees, and 170 acres of rice. Chang Chih-ling bought the owners of them all right out, and according to reports the vendors were well pleased with the transaction, receiving much more than their property was worth in the market. Half the purchase money was paid on the spot.

Mr. Bell, a director of the Palang Corporation, arrived at Singapore by the mail on the 5th inst., and the *Strait Times* says, will go on to Pahang in a day or two. The directors do not know what the object of his visit is, but a private source has not been disclosed, and from private advice, our contemporary learns that some change in the management may possibly be made soon. Mr. Bell, it may be noted, was at Singapore eighteen months ago, and is familiar with the workings at Kuantan.

E. E. Sheng, Consul of Chiao, arrived at Shanghai on the 5th May. The *Mercury* learns that E. E., who is a director of the China Merchants, is sent down to Shanghai by Viceroy Li to assist in the management of the Chinese telegraph line, and to see that the line is properly maintained, and to try and put a stop to the ruinous competition with each other which is now going on. But should the line be properly maintained, we understand, it is to be used for the telegraph.

H.M.S. *Mercury* arrived at Colombo on the 23rd April, and is to leave on the 29th for Singapore. She calls at Trincomalee for the electric light machinery sent to the Kingfisher, but, for some reason, not taken by that vessel. The *Mercury* is a fine ship, and is now in the Hongkong. Hitherto she has possessed search lights only, and oil lamps having had to be used in the mess rooms and cabins, and in other parts of the ship. It may be noted that the vessel is under the command of Mr. J. H. M. Jones, who is a very experienced officer.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—We think it right to call attention to the fact which has recently been brought to our notice by very good authority. It is said that it is a very common practice amongst the Chinese merchants of Hongkong to place their goods in the hands of a broker, who is a native of the place, and who is well known to the authorities. This practice is not only a source of danger to the merchants, but it is also a source of danger to the public. It is therefore, we think, a very good idea to have a system of public inspection, so that the goods of the merchants may be properly looked after, and so that the public may be protected from the dangers of such a system.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—The operations of the Landing at the Wharfedale have, so far, been attended with success. It was anticipated that the work would be completed by the end of the month, and it is estimated that already about one-third of the work has been completed. The work is being carried on by the Wharfedale, and it is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the month. The work is being carried on by the Wharfedale, and it is expected that the work will be completed by the end of the month.

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THE RAILWAY STRIKE IN IRELAND.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

The Labour Demonstration in Hyde Park on Sunday drew the largest crowd ever witnessed. It is estimated that three hundred thousand assembled. The proceedings were orderly.

THE PEAK CHURCH.

A meeting of residents interested in the Peak Church was held yesterday afternoon at the Registrar-General's office. There were present:—Mr. W. Jennings (Chairman), Mr. G. H. Bondfield, Mr. F. T. P. Foster, and Mr. G. Palmer. The Chairman read the following report:—

"The Church was opened in 1884, and the present report and Statement of Accounts. During the summer season only 11 evening services could be held, of which 4 were conducted by the Rev. J. B. Out and 3 by the Rev. G. H. Bondfield. The Colonial Chaplain arranged for monthly celebrations of the Holy Communion, which have also been continued during the season, and we stand there, I doubt, partly to the fact that at any time of service being held until notified in the newspapers, the congregation was small, but for the last few weeks it has been increasing, bringing the Cathedral and Union Church with it in easy access, also contributed to the falling off. With the largely-increased population at the Peak it is becoming a serious question as to the future of the church. With another Chaplain all things would be possible; and a Sunday School, much needed for the children at the Peak, might be started, for which the Church would be well equipped. The Committee have been in the hands of \$29.18. The present Committee, Rev. W. Jennings, Rev. G. H. Bondfield, Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, and Messrs. C. Palmer and W. G. Brodie, are anxious to see the church in a better position than it is at present."

The accounts and report as presented were passed. The following Committee was elected:—Rev. G. H. Bondfield, Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, Messrs. C. Palmer, F. T. P. Foster, and A. B. Johnson.

SUPREME COURT.

13th May.

IN SUMMARY JUDGMENT.

BROOKS M. A. G. WISE, AGING PUINER.

JUDGE.

MAX KAT SEVO AND ANTHONY U. CHEUNG.

CHENG CHU.

This was an action for \$1,000 damages for breach of contract.

Mr. Francis G. C. G. was for the plaintiffs; Hon. Mr. K. G. was for the defendants. The plaintiffs stated in their petition that on the 28th May, 1900, they entered into a contract with the defendants to pull down and rebuild four houses in First Street for \$3,800. \$500 of which was to be paid when the old houses were pulled down, and the remainder when the new houses were completed. The contract was for 64 months. The plaintiffs proceeded with the work, but had not yet got to the stage of pulling down the old houses. The defendants refused to pay the money, and a third was ready to put the roof on the whole was carried away by the storm of the 28th May. Plaintiffs were ready and willing to proceed with the work but defendant refused to pay the money. The defendant in his answer admitted the facts of the contract. He further stated that the wall objected to by the Inspector was a retaining wall, the repairing of which did not require the pulling down of the old houses. The wall was carried away by the storm and was not a part of the contract. The defendant denied that the plaintiffs were willing to proceed with the work. He further stated that the wall objected to by the Inspector was a retaining wall, the repairing of which did not require the pulling down of the old houses. The wall was carried away by the storm and was not a part of the contract. The defendant denied that the plaintiffs were willing to proceed with the work.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—We think it right to call attention to the fact which has recently been brought to our notice by very good authority. It is said that it is a very common practice amongst the Chinese merchants of Hongkong to place their goods in the hands of a broker, who is a native of the place, and who is well known to the authorities. This practice is not only a source of danger to the merchants, but it is also a source of danger to the public. It is therefore, we think, a very good idea to have a system of public inspection, so that the goods of the merchants may be properly looked after, and so that the public may be protected from the dangers of such a system.

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and incorporation under the Companies' Ordinance, Hong Kong, in accordance with the articles of association submitted at the ordinary general meeting in April or May, 1899. On referring to the reserve fund now before you, it will be seen that the balance at credit is \$300,000, and the reserve fund is \$300,000, and

